

Elected president in 1977, Arthur Fleet. He was president, too, in 1972 and was chairman for 17 years. At the present he is ill in hospital, but he has said that he is willing to serve again.

All quiet, but not for long

Some of the crowd at the Wycombe Wanderers v Reading Cup-tie. All peaceful here. But there was trouble before and after the game.



## County chopper to fall on jobs

THE BOGEY of sackings, avoided for the last two years by Bucks County Council, became a reality this week after Government warnings on cuts and the household news that Bucks could have lost over £4 million more in the Rate Support Grant than was at first thought. An immediate embargo on filling vacancies among staff was ordered by Chief Executive John Stevenson as soon as news of the possible £9.7 million, cut reached him.

And on Friday afternoon, Education Chief, Mr Roy Harding, met the teachers unions and ordered an immediate ban on all recruitment in their ranks for the next few weeks. The ban also includes non-teaching staff, although a spokesman for the education committee has said that if vital posts, such as that of school caretakers, become vacant, they will be filled. Otherwise, necessary work like the lighting and maintenance of school boilers would not be done and children would be unable to attend school.

"Equally," he said, "I hope that all members of staff will wish to co-operate on meeting what is a joint problem of the community as a whole, and I am sure that council members will wish to take into account all suggestions by employees and their representatives, particularly with a view to making the fairest possible arrangements."

"It would not be right to shrink from using the word 'redundancies' because natural wastage will probably not produce the reductions we may have to face."

The chairman of the County Council's personnel sub-committee has set up a panel to carry out a full review of each department. All Chief Officers have been asked to produce information about numbers of staff and the work they do. And at Friday's meeting of the county policy and resources committee, Chief Executive Mr John Stevenson made the ominous point that in the current year, a reduction of 5% in staff — achieved by not filling vacancies — has saved the county £250,000.

In education, the worst-hit department for expenditure cuts, Councillor John Campbell was asked to prune £3 million off next year's estimates. And with the education budget, he said, he was "comfortable" and the council could only be achieved by staff redundancies.

Over £13 million of the £24 million cut in the county's total saving of £13 million. In a statement which preceded the meeting, chairman of the committee Coun. John Mearns warned that questions could arise of compulsory transfer, early retirement and redundancies, and he was sure council members would wish to tackle the problems "in a humane way."

The cuts in estimates are: education £1.1 million; highways, planning and transport £1.1 million; social services £1.1 million; and other services £1.1 million.

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## WYCOMBE WANDERERS CUP ON THE RAMPAGE

IT WILL BE neither a happy Christmas nor a bright New Year for High Wycombe and District Show Association unless, quickly, there are firm guarantees against the possibility of further financial loss — and it's a big IF — a show is held in 1977.

At what was probably the longest and certainly the most crisis-ridden annual meeting of the association, held at the Irish Club on Thursday, members reluctantly but realistically decided 'No show in 1977 unless guarantees are forthcoming, to the satisfaction of the general purposes and finance committee, by January 10'.

Members left the figure open-ended, though the retiring president, Mr J. Saunders, and the vice-chairman, Mr John Roberts, have both, with some support, indicated that it should be not less than £3,000. Unanimously, the meeting felt that the show, one of the finest of its kind in the county, bringing publicity to the town and district and exhibitors and visitors from far afield, deserved greater support from industrial firms, traders and local organisations not only by way of guarantees against the possibility of loss of a poor day's attendance slumped, but by way of donations and sponsorship.

Said Mr Saunders: "There is a crack of gold at the end of the Wycombe Show rainbow. The money has to be found."

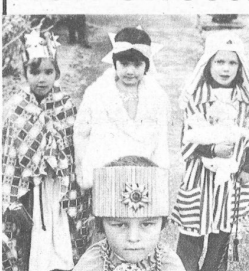
The show rarely makes a profit in monetary terms, but it has more often than not broken even. In recent years of inflationary costs cash in hand at the end of a show year has dwindled. It is now a meagre £483.

Treasurer, Mr J. N. Cullen, stressed the danger in his annual report. "Looking to 1977," he said, "the association must be concerned that its capital has now been reduced to £483 and, in my view, this is inadequate to mount the next show, which in its present format cannot cost less than £15,000-£16,000 to stage. I would strongly recommend to the new committee, therefore, that guarantee be sought to a total of £3,000 for as matters stand, in the event of a financial disaster, the loss would fall on the officers of the association and upon the members of the general committee."

"It could be argued that such a disaster is unlikely but the possibility must be faced, and I would remind members that over the last seven years the show has made a profit in only two years for the five remaining years it has lost an average £402. To put it another way, capital in 1970 amounted to £1,815 and this has now been reduced to £483."

Poor show weather in 1976 coupled with Wycombe Wanderers playing at home, cut the attendance to 13,892.

## How sweet!



Why don't we start a Save the Show Fund? asked another member. "We want small donations. There must be many a small gardener who likes the show and would send a donation of a pound or so."

Meanwhile, approaches are to be made to other local councils, to traders and industrialists for offers of support.

Mr Mike Kealey was re-elected chairman, and Mr John Roberts vice-chairman. Also re-elected were the treasurer, Mr Tim Large, and the secretary, Mr Seymour Taylor & Co. Tribute was paid to all the officers and officials for their sterling work.

Meas R. H. Andrews and C. Cunningham were re-elected to the general committee, with the addition of Mr R. Smith.

In her report on the 1976 show the retiring general secretary, Mrs Wightman, said there were 738 exhibitors and 441 members. The show was a success in many ways, but the weather was too cold for them outside.

Inevitably, she warned, a major review of the show format must be made.

## Next Week's Mid-week

YOUR next Mid-week will be out lunch-time on Monday. Will all advertisers and correspondents help by forwarding their copy by noon on Friday.

## Brought home bacon

BLEDLO pig farmer Allan Tew has continued his winning streak at Smithfield Show this year by bringing home the bacon carcass championship for two consecutive years.

THIEVES broke into a car parked at Woburn Grange Country Club, Bourne End, in the early hours of Friday morning by smashing a quarter-light window. They stole a gold bracelet and eight stereo cassette tapes belonging to Mr Peter Graham Wright, 22 Springfield Park, Holyport.

## White lines on Moor

Cookham Parish Council to ask Bucks County Council to paint white lines at the side of the road across the Moor. A letter from Cookham resident Mrs. D. Ashwarden, pointed out that the road verges were in distinct after dark and should be clearly marked.

## FOUR CHILDREN INJURED

FOUR CHILDREN were injured when a Bedford Dormobile in which they were passengers crashed in the Hillview Road, near the junction with Bowden Road, High Wycombe, on Thursday.

The four, Akka Ravan, aged nine, of Sussex Road, Al Sulfa, aged seven, of Adelaide Road, Mohammed Khali, aged ten, of Hillview Road, and Masud Shah, aged four, of Perth Road, were taken to Wycombe General Hospital. Their injuries were described as 'slight'.

## THREE YOUNG PEOPLE INJURED

THREE young people were injured in a collision with a car on the Marlton-Lane End road on Saturday evening. A fourth person was also injured, but, allowed to go home after treatment in the casualty department.

The incident involved only one car being driven by Mr Robert Page, of 27 Park Lane, Beaconsfield, and happened at about 8.45 pm about half-a-mile from Marlton towards Lane End.

Of the four pedestrians who were injured Mr Peter Bowles of 102 Newfield Gardens, Marlton, was most seriously injured. He was treated for his injuries and hospitalised on Monday.

Also detained and said to be in a satisfactory condition were Mr Andrew Blanch, of 20 Seymour Court Road, Marlow, and Miss Jane Gilbert of 36 Pinkneys Road, Maidenhead.

Miss Linda Newall, of 56 Newtown Road, Marlow, was treated for her injuries and later released from the casualty unit.

## A RISKY SURGEON STAMPS OUT SERVICE

THE NATIONAL Health Service is riddled with frustration and bad management. The bitter diagnosis of the service and its inability to function in the patients' interests came in a scathing attack by Princes Risborough surgeon, Mr J. D. Cooper.

Mr Cooper, a consultant at hospitals in Thame and Watlington is due to retire at the end of the year and this week he said he was "Jolly glad to be getting out."

Speaking at his home, Enkhuizen House, Parkfield Road, Mr Cooper said there was a complete lack of common sense in the NHS and there was no one at the top willing to take any responsibility. "Doctors' morale is as low as it has ever been, and morale generally in the service is at a low ebb. Nurses hate the doctors and the porters hate the nurses."

## Woman killed

MRS Cherry Joanne Gillette, aged about 35, of Abbotscroft, Bourne End, was found to be dead on arrival at Wexham Park Hospital on Friday morning following an accident in the Oxford road, Gerrards Cross.

Here was the only car involved — it had gone into a ditch and struck a tree at the junction of Heusden Way.

Mr Cooper believes the majority of people can afford private treatment through medical insurance schemes and the only way many patients will get the operations they want without waiting for years is privately.

## Preastwood's nativity play at the parish church

Starring Suzanne Jarvis, Adam Hildreth, Matthew Dowler and Helen Ayre. How sweet they look!

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